SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, according to the information given to me, sand mining has nothing to do with water gap, or, the misuse of mining can create water hazards at a place. But, since many Members have raised this issue in the House, I will get it examined. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri P.G. Narayanan. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to see the written answer of this question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: On this question, I have got about 12 requests for putting supplementaries. This is a very important subject. I think by putting questions only, it will not be addressed properly. ...*(Interruptions)*... If some hon. Members give a notice for Half-an-Hour Discussion, then, it would be taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*... As it is, I have 12 requests before me for putting supplementaries. It is a very important question, and every Member wants to put a supplementary on this. I think it will be better... *(Interruptions)*... इसीलिए मैं कह रहा हूं, हाफ एन ऑवर के लिए आने दीजिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्रीमती माया सिंहः उपसभापति जी, मैंने अपने विशेष उल्लेख में मध्य प्रदेश का जिक्र किया था। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Everbody is interested in water level, ground water level and how it is being done. If some hon. Members give a notice, it will be taken up in the form of Half-an-Hour Discussion. You give a notice for that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: That will be a good thing, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the next question.

*286. [The questioner Shri Janeshwar Mishra was absent. For answer *vide* page 31 infra]

Development and promotion of tourism

*287. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various projects for the development and promotion of tourism in the country, State-wise and Project-wise, pending for clearance; and

(b) the action taken by Government on the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) The development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Govemments/U.Ts. The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to the State Government for development of tourism based on receipt of the proposals complete in all respects and inter-se-priority and availability of funds. These project proposals are finalized for grant of Central Financial Assistance after consultations with the State Govts, every year. The number of projects sanctioned and amount released during the last three years and the current year are at Statements-I and II respectively.

Statement-I

State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the Tenth five Year Plan (as on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. in lakhs)

		2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
SI. No.	State/UT	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	507.50	195.00	6	94650	896.44	16	2827.19	2240.68
2	Assam	9	768.13	618.85	3	313.46	313.06	8	986.03	766.22
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5	41.30	32.50	6 .	1044.60	700.00	9	1325.50	927.96
4	Bihar	8	505.00	505.00	6	1019.42	913.89	7	1901.43	1527.71
5	Chattisgart	9	308.00	98.50	6	1005.00	364.00	6	1117.94	897.93
6	Goa	1	0.50	0.50	2	36.76	34.76	3	110.00	38.00
»7	Gujarat	2	197.12	59.13	8	920.51	815.82	2	138.93	111.1,4
8	Haryana	8	332.25	311.00	16	1215.38	879.23	6	693.55	513.64
9	Himachal Pradesh	30	779.32	760.38	4	182.32	85.00	12	2680.00	2161.00
10	J&K	3	94.38	89.47	5	895.00	895.00	5	819.25	699.04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	Jharkhand	0	0	0	2	1109 00	774.60	2	945.91	756.72
12	Karnataka	6	902.49	625.49	14	932.66	792.51	12	2461.76	1937.37
13	Kerala	11	861.36	82986	6	608 50	564.15	10	2283.63	1820.33
14	Madhya Pradesh	18	711.18	574.79	10	621 90	394.51	11	1595.19	942.21
15	Maharashtra	8	623.46	546.25	10	931 83	914.58	10	1620.62	92530
16	Manipur	2	5.24	2.62	1	82.44	24.73	0	0.00	0.00
17	Meghalaya	3	70.35	21.20	2	40.22	24.92	2	963.30	807.91
18	Mizoram	6	141.16	48.46	5	567.70	186.75	6	1086.35	382.38
19	Nagaland	5	360.50	323.43	4	711.00	220.80	7	2250.69	1413.40
20	Orissa	2	47.50	15.75	5	419.55	138 50	8	1320.74	1059.38
21	Punjab	3	23.00	14.60	2	96.00	12.30	7	724.68	581.47
22	Rajasthan	13	1098 70	1096.20	14	1644.81	1414.25	13	2516.61	1375.07
23	Sikkim	13	346.24	269.76	8	1151.09	681.49	8	660.81	531.33
24	Tamil Nadu	5	559.00	316.10	14	1339.82	850 53	7	1308.92	705.83
25	Tripura	5	216.13	67.78	6	450.17	135.16	1	20.00	16.00
26	Uttaranchal	3	548.00	418.00	4	230.44	203.94	7	2199.98	1750.73
27	Uttar Pradesh	3	295.00	295 00	7	1115.80	916.26	9	1044.93	831.19
28	West Bengal	5	201.10	60.00	10	717.44	384.34	10	513.04	407.43
29	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
30	Chandigarh	3	7.75	6.63	2	10.00	8.00	3	467.00	373 60
31	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	2	807	6.46	0	0	0	O	0.00	0.00
32	Delhi	14	504.00	449.02	17	3316.28	3222.13	8	628.85	511.00
33	Daman & Diu	3	49.50	16.90	1	265.07	238.56	0	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
35	Pondicherry	2	7.87	6.30	1	245.17	73.55	2	451.00	360.00
	TOTAL	212	11121.10	8680.93	207	24185.84	18073.76	217	37663.83	27371.97

Note : This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generating Projects, Rural Tourism (Software and Hardare) Projects, IT, Event, Fair & Festivals Projects

Statement-ll

State-wise Tourism Projects sanctioned and funds released during the year 2005-2006 of the Tenth Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

SI. No.		2005-06 (as on 8.12.2005)		
	State/UT	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	Andhra Pradesh	1	10.00	0.00
2	Assam	7	20.77.20	1643.45
3	Arunachal Pradesh	7	1401.60	984.52
4	Bihar	0	0.00	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	2	518.41	415.00
6	Goa	0	0.00	0.00
7	Gujarat	3	1253.31	562.64
8	Haryana	2	166.45	133.65
9	Himachal Pradesh	1	30.00	24.00
10	J&K	15	3515.37	2808.41
11	Jharkhand	0	0.00	0.00
12	Karnataka	2	582.52	466.00
13	Kerala	4	2612.00	2091.00
14	Madhya Pradesh	8	1506.94	1195.54
15	Maharashtra	6	1114.91	888.91
16	Manipur	0	0.00	0.00
17	Meghalaya	1	5.00	4.00
18	Mizoram ,	6	1469.49	1047.29
19	Nagaland	7*	1333.65	916.92
20	Orissa	0	0.00	0.00
21	Punjab	0	0.00	0.00
22	Rajasthan	2	593.58	487.78
23	Sikkim	10	942.84	689.37
24	Tamil Nadu	11	3123.11	2159.28
25	Tripura	3	716.26	569.43
26	Uttaranchal	7	1039.77	831.72
27	Uttar Pradesh	11	2456.00	1848.65

SI. No.	State/UT	2005-06 (as on 8.12.2005) No. of Projects Sancd	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
28	West Bengal	2	975.00	780.00
29	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0.00	0.00
30	Chandigarh	0	0.00	0.00
31	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0.00
32	Delhi	0	0.00	0.00
33	Damand & Diu	3	182.70	144.95
34	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0.00
35	Pondicherry	1	5.00	4.00
	TOTAL	122	27631.15	20696.51

Note. This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generating Projects, Rural Tourism (Software and Hardware) Projects, IT, Event, Fair & Festivals Projects.

प्रो.एम.एम. अग्रवालः उपसभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदया से जानना चाहूंगा कि जो प्राकृतिक आपदाएं आती हैं, उनसे हमारे सब टूरिस्ट स्पाट नष्ट हो गए हैं, जैसे अंडमान निकोबार है, चैन्नई है, आध्र है या तमिलाडु के और टूरिस्ट स्पॉट है, तो क्या मंत्री जी ने इस तरफ कुछ कदम उठाए हैं या उनको सुधारने के लिए क्या-क्या प्रयास किए गए हैं?

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरीः सर, मुझे बताने में कोई ऐतराज नहीं है, मगर अगर आप सवाल को देखेंगे तो सवाल कुछ और है और जो माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है, यह अलग बात है, हालांकि मैं उसका जवाब देने के लिए पूरी तरह से तैयार हूं। अपने देश में जो नेचुरल केलामिटीज आती है, सिर्फ टूरिज्म ही नहीं बल्कि ऐन्वायरनमेंट मिनिस्ट्री और होम मिनिस्ट्री इन सबसे मिलकर हम लोग एक फैसला करते हैं। प्रिवेंशन बहुत मुश्किल होती है, मगर जब रिकंस्ट्रक्शन होती है तो कई बार हम रूल्स में अमेंडमेंड्स लाकर, उसको ध्यान में रखकर ही, दोबारा वहां बनाते हैं। We keep in mind the fine balance of environment और उसके साथ-साथ हम काम चलाते हैं।

प्रो.एम.एम. अग्रवालः क्या आपने कोई काम शुरू भी किया है?

श्री सभापतिः आप सैंकड सप्लिमेंट्री पूछिए।

प्रो.एम.एम. अग्रवालः मंत्री महोदया यह बताएं कि क्या इन्होंने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में टूरिस्ट स्पॉट बनाने का प्रयास किया है?

श्री रेणुका चौधरीः सर, मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगी कि यह सवाल भी इससे जुड़ा हुआ नहीं है, मगर ...(**व्यवधान**)....

प्रो.एम.एम.अग्रवालः ये सब सवाल जुड़े हुए हैं।

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरीः मैं फख से बताना चाहूंगी कि हमारे देश में, UNDP को साथ लेते हुए, हमने 31 ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की पहचान की है और वहां इंडिजिनस टैक्नोलॉजी का इस्तेमाल करते हुए हम यह कर रहे हैं। दूसरी बात, मैंने पार्लियामेंट में भी ऑफर दी थी कि जितने भी हमारे माननीय मैम्बर ऑफ पार्लियामेंट है, अगर आप आगे बढ़ेंगे, आपके क्षेत्र में भी हम रूरल टूरिज्म डेवलप करने के लिए बिल्कुल तैयार बैठे हैं। गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया की तरफ से हमने 5 विलेजिस को टूरिज्म की दृष्टि से आइडेंटिफाई करके उनमें गुरूकुल सिस्टम, जहां विलायती बच्चे और अपने बच्चे एक से तीन महीने तक रहकर एक मशहूर कलाकार से एक कला भी सीख सकते हैं। हम फॉरेन यूनिवर्सिटी से तालमेल करके वहां से क्रेडिट लेने की कोशिश में अभी व्यस्त हैं

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I find that the hon. Minister has mentioned in her reply that the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to the State Governments. That is not the only thing. She is a very dynamic Minister, I thought she will work more like a catalytic agent, because tourism requires a lot of coordination with the Ministry of Civil Aviation... *(Interruptions)* Coordination with the Railways and the Ministry of Surface Transport. Does she have any plan to coordinate with other Ministries? I find that in places like Goa, for example—Civil Aviation Minister is also sitting here—the airport is not working 24 hours even now; it is under the clutches of the Navy; originally it was under Civil Aviation. Is the Minister trying to make sure with the Civil Aviation Minister that this becomes operational 24 hours for civilian use?

Similarly, Sir, how are these amounts sanctioned and released? In her own State, Andhra Pradesh—with all due respect to her—I find that out of the sanctioned, 70 per cent has been released whereas for Rajasthan, they have sanctioned only 50 per cent. For Goa, they have sanctioned only about 40 per cent. For other States, it is still lower.

Would the Minister tell us how and on what basis this release of fund is done to different States?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, first of all, lam very happy that the hon. Member thinks I am dynamic and thank you for the compliment. On the second issue, whether I have close coordination with the other Ministries, I think, the results speak for themselves. We

have seen a significant growth in tourism this year despite earthquakes, bomb-blasts and tsunami-affected areas. The growth in foreign tourist arrivals in 2004 has been 23.5 per cent and in foreign exchange earnings in dollar terms it is 36 per cent when compared to 2003. We are one of the largest generator of foreign exchange for the country today, compared to IT—I hope, the Finance Minister is also listening. Given the small Budget that we have, we have been generating income for the country. Now, with the Civil Aviation Ministry ...*(interruptions)*... We have been working in close partnership with the Civil Aviation Ministry and 22 new airports have been identified for non-metro destinations. Goa has a peculiar turf realities which the Civil Aviation Minister is addressing as far as I know. Maybe, you allow the Minister to answer for himself. ...*(interruptions)*... 18 bilateral agreements have been signed with other international airlines to allow people to fly into the country. As far as the third issue of how much money has been given to whom is concerned, I think, no State can complain today. There has been highest allocation to every State for tourism in the past two years, ever since we have taken over this show. With due apology, some of the State Governments do not send us their proposals on time. It generally depends on how proactive the State Governments are. When they come forward with their proposals, money is deployed immediately. In fact, in the new Plan, we are going to make States competitive so that they learn to give due importance to the Tourism. As far as Rajasthan is concerned, I think Rajasthan should look back for the past four years and see that the highest ever allocation to some crores has come to Rajasthan State. I look forward that all the Members here will put pressure on their respective State Governments to come forward and give tourism its importance.

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवीः आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री महोदया ने जिन प्रोजेक्ट्स को साइन करने के डिटेल्स इसमें दिए हैं, उनमें कई राज्यों में न तो किसी प्रोजेक्ट की चर्चा है और न ही केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा उन्हें दिए गए धन की चर्चा है, जैसे कि बिहार, गोआ, अंडमान निकोबार द्वीप समूह, चंडीगढ़, दादर नगर हवेली, दमन दीव एंव लक्षद्धीप।

मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदया से पूछना चाहता हूं कि जिन राज्यों को पर्यटन के विकास के लिए धन दिया गया है, उन राज्यों में प्रदेश सरकारें उस धन का किस तरह से उपयोग कर रही हैं और जितना धन दिया गया है, उसका सही उपयोग हुआ है अथवा नहीं? क्या उसकी मॉनिटरिंग करवाने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार कोई व्यवस्था कर रही है और जिन राज्यों को धन नहीं दिया है, जैसे कि कई महत्वपूर्ण राज्य रह गए हैं, उन्हें वह धन क्यों दिया गया है?

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरीः यदि उन्हें धन नहीं दिया गया तो उसका एक ही कारण हो सकता है कि उनका प्रोपोजल हमारे पास समय पर नहीं पहुंचा। हमने एक ऑफिसर को केवल इसी काम के लिए नियुक्त किया है कि वह बार-बार उनके चीफ सक्रेटरीज और LGs से बात करे, यदि संभव होता है तो मैं स्वयं भी उनसे कई बार बात करती हूं एंव उनसे इस बारे में कहती हूं।

कई जगहों पर, जैसे आपने अभी बिहार का सवाल उठाया, वहां अभी हाल ही में चुनाव हो रहे थे, इसी कारण से हमारे पास उनका प्रोपज़ल नहीं आया और काम भी थम गया। अगर देखें तो जहां पर भी मुझे मौका मिला, मैं स्वंय साइट पर जा कर देखती हूं कि काम चल रहा है या नहीं चल रहा हूं और कहीं हमारे धन का गलत उपयोग तो नहीं हो रहा है। इसके लिए मैं आप सबसे भी यह चाहती हूं कि आप सब भी हमारा साथ दें, यह हमारे लिए एक बहुत बड़ा सहारा होगा यदि आप अपने क्षेत्र में देखें कि जो धन हम देते हैं, उसका सही इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है या नहीं।

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, this question is an imporant one and the Minister, of course, has given a comprehensive account of what the Government is doing. India has much to offer in tourism right from the Himalayas to our beaches, deserts and also our ancient temples and forts. We are under-exploited. There is growth of 26 per cent, as the Minister has said, it is because of one contributing factor and that contributing factor is the growing profile of India. There is also rising global interest ...*(interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. I think you put your question because only five minutes are left. ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: My pointed question to the hon. Minister is, whether the Government of India will have an integrated tourism promotion policy in which State Governments will be brought in more rather than waiting for the proposals to come from the State Governments. There should be an integrated nationwide plan. I would like to know whether the Government is considering promoting through special projects adventure tourism and winter tourism for which a large number of foreign tourists would be interested. Remembering that tourism can not only be the largest employment provider but also a revenue generator.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Member has, supposedly, asked a pointed question. But, I want to tell you that we don't just wait for the State Governments to come forward. Seeing the dismal state of tourism in the past, we have been pro-active.

We have a scheme for assistance to large revenue-generating projects. We provide funds under that. And, we also do destination development, which we have identified, and we also help. We have given a special focus on winter and other out-of-box thinking tourism. Adventure tourism has already been addressed. We have several adventure tourism sites and locations. For those who want to go to Kashmir for a 'white Christmas', please go ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Why only to Kashmir? Why not Himachal?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY. Please, one minute. Please go to Jammu and Kashmir this winter, you have an amazingly, incredibly beautiful 'white Christmas' happening out there. For those of you who want to be facilitative. ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, what about Himachal? ...*(interruptions)*... I asked a question that my State has much to offer than Jammu and Kashmir ...*(interruptions)*... Why not Himachal? ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, they don't let me complete my reply ...*(interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, the Minister is very adventurous ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: Sir, we all recognise the dynamic capacity of the hon. Minister. But, I am afraid, the answer that has been given is rather unsatisfactory. To say that promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, she is talking only the question of law. In our country, today, tourism is not only a major foreign exchange earner but also a big employer. The employment potential of tourism is so huge that the Ministry of Tourism must be able to provide a plan of action as to how tourism improves employment and increases foreign exchange and there has to be a national plan of which the State Governments would be made a part of that plan. But, not the other way round.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I appreciate the hon. Member's observation. But, you will also appreciate that when I give a written reply to Parliament, I have to be technically correct. Tourism is not on the Concurrent List at this point. And, because of that, we have to say that it is the responsibility of the States. However, it is a matter of

national pride for me to market India. I am also proud to announce to the House today that the Tourism Ministry has won several awards this year for all the campaign and for the highest re-call ability across the world. Today, 'Incredible India' has registered as a brand name and that shows the rising number of tourists coming into the country. Thank you for the support. This is for the first time that Rajya Sabha has addressed the question on tourism for so long. I hope and look forward for more ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Sir, whether any proposal from the State of Andhra Pradesh is pending before the Ministry ...*(interruptions)*...

श्री तारिक अनवरः उपसभापति महोदय, जैसा अभी कहा गया कि हमारे देश में टूरिज्म के विकास के लिए काफी अवसर हैं और ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री उपसभापतिः जल्दी पूछिए, एक मिनट बचा है।

श्री तारिक अनवरः टूरिज्म के माध्म से हम एम्प्लॉयमेंट भी जेनरेट कर सकते हैं। माननीय मंत्री महोदय से मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जो उन्होंने कहा है कि जो भी टूरिज्म का विकास है वह राज्य सरकार पर निर्भर करता है, राज्य सरकार के ऊपर उसकी जिम्मेदारी है और केन्द्र सरकार उसमें सहयोग करती है। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीyख्याति के जो टूरिज्म स्पॉट्स हैं क्या उस पर भारत सरकार स्वंय या आपका मंत्रालय ध्यान दे सकता है?

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरीः नहीं जी, आप भी जानते हैं कि जो यूनेस्को के पहचाने हुए 28 वर्ल्ड हेरिटेज साईट्स आज अपने देश में हैं यह कल्चर की मिनिस्ट्री में अंडर कल्चर आ जाती है और दूसरी बात, हमने तो सर्फेस ट्रांसपोर्ट और इन लोगों से कहा है कि तुरन्त एक ही इशारे में इन सारी जगहों के लिए हमें रोड कनेक्टिविटी, पब्लिक फेसेलिटीज and ramps for physically-challenged people लागू कर देना चाहिए और उसकी मार्केटिंग के बारे में यह फैसला हम लागों ने किया है कि special package will be given.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Pension commitments

*281. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what percentage of the net tax revenue is spent on pension commitments by the Central as well as State Governments?